

the kind of stimulus we need to have to encourage and develop and enhance and sustain more African-American businesses, more businesses in the Hispanic community, too.

We have a situation there where hospitals are our largest employers, more than 5,000 people employed in one hospital complex in my district, and there is a danger that the politics of the situation may result in the closing down of the hospitals. The politics now are frightening us because the economic development we foresee if we get an empowerment zone, we see the hospitals being able to generate a whole set of additional businesses in our community, as they do now, they employ large numbers of people. There are cleaning services, food services, there are various other kinds of services, the people that do the repair, the x-ray machines, all kinds of services that are there that will be gone if we do not take care of the politics that are seeking to close down our hospitals and move them somewhere else.

So the politics are inseparable from the economics. We hope the encouragement, the possibilities of an economic empowerment zone, will lead to less of a drive to close down the hospitals and leave a big slum in the middle of our communities.

There are numerous other examples of how the politics have to be in place and have to work hand in hand. The government and political situation have to go hand in hand with the economic development. The whole area of tourism, which Cleveland understands very well, Lou Stokes from Cleveland, the Mayor there, understands the building of a Rock and Roll Museum in the heart of Cleveland is a great step forward economically. Just build the place that has a great attraction for people, and when they come, they bring their dollars and they support many other kinds of businesses.

The development of our big cities is one of the most outstanding museums of African-American history, is now in downtown Detroit, and they had written off downtown Detroit 10 years ago and said it would never come back. Downtown Detroit is coming back in many different ways, and one of the ways it is coming back is the political leadership has chosen to make an investment in the downtown in many ways. One of the ways they are making the investment, of course, is the building of facilities like an African-American museum that has the highest attendance of any such museum anywhere in the country.

As I close, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that I came here from a special showing by HBO of the film, *Four Little Girls*, a documentary film directed by Spike Lee. In that film, one of the things that I noticed right away as they depicted the Birmingham community out of which those four little girls who were murdered by the bombing in the church on a Sunday morning, they came out of

very well-organized families. They came out of a community which was low- and middle-class probably, but you could see from the houses, from the neighborhood, very stable. They came out of the kind of environment that I grew up in, much poorer, we did not have brick houses, but wood houses, but there was an order and stability there, especially as the prosperity of World War II came to our communities and the prosperity right after the war. And when you have jobs and families had income, you did not have the drug problems, you did not have the disintegration, you did not have the need for large numbers of welfare.

When you take care of the economy and do what is right by the economy, and spread and share the wealth, then many other problems get solved. It is amazing how many of our communities have been torn asunder that once had so much organization, so many middle-class institutions, those kids belonged to the Girl Scouts and the Sunshine Club, and all the stuff that we now have to try to recreate in our urban communities that have been torn apart by the lack of jobs and disintegration of families, the coming of drugs, et cetera.

So the economics will blossom, the economics must blossom. They are key to revitalization of our communities and our people, but they cannot happen, it does not happen by itself. The market forces need to work hand in hand with government, and government needs to assert itself and understand that it should be there, more than just for multibillion dollar bailouts. That kind of socialism we do not need.

It should be there in terms of stimulating the economy, as it did with the Morrill Act, as it did with the Transcontinental Railroad, as it did with the GI Bill of Rights, which created a whole work force that could step forward, an intelligent, well-educated work force, created overnight, in large numbers, from the returning GI's because we provided an education, and on and on it goes.

Government and business need to work together to guarantee that there will be a continuing empowerment through business and economic development in the African-American community.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have a few thoughts on black history that I thought that I would present tonight, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say I am here today to recognize a part of black history that sometimes people forget about, and that is that African Americans, as we all know, African Americans have played a tremendous role in ensuring American prosperity since the founding of our country. But

all too long and for all too often, people are just focusing on the labor that was provided by African Americans who began as slaves and then became part of our labor force.

It is well-known that they have contributed much, and it is also well-known that in recent years African Americans have become increasingly owners of small businesses and mom and pop shops, all the way to Fortune 500 corporations.

But what is less well-known is a subject dear to my heart, and that is that black Americans have made and continue to make a vital contribution to the technological edge that America has and have made tremendous contributions to America's technological success, from the earliest days of our republic. Black Americans have, over the years, benefited from our country's strong patent system, and we have the strongest patent protection of any Nation in the world, but through the invention of black Americans, utilizing this right, by the way, at times their other rights were being totally trampled upon, but their rights for patent protection were being protected. Because of this, they have made tremendous contributions to our country, that sometimes are totally overlooked, and these contributions have added greatly to our way of life, to the quality of life of Americans.

I have a list here, quite a few African American inventors that have done things. How many people know that Elijah McCoy, a black American in 1872, had over 57 patents on engines and machinery that were part of the whole steam engine and the basis for the settling of the West and the basis for our whole industrialization of our country? Those steam engines and the parts he invented were so important that when people went back at the turn of the century to ask for parts to an engine, they would say, "Now, is this the real McCoy?"

That is where that came from. The real McCoy was a black American who was an inventor who played such an important part in the development of the steam engine.

Lewis Howard Latimer in 1881 took Thomas Edison's light bulb, and we all know Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, but it was not practical until Howard Latimer, a black American, took that and invented a long-lasting carbon filament that replaced this original bamboo filament that Edison had been working with.

How many of our fellow Americans understand that and appreciate these types of contributions?

BLACK HISTORY RECOGNITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, continuing on with regard to the contributions made to America by black inventors, Granville T. Woods developed over 20 patents for engineering the railroad industry, including batteries, I might add, electric brakes and telephone transmitters.

January Ernst Matzelinger in 1889 invented an automatic shoe machine. This was part of a process of putting together shoes. Before his invention, shoes cost three or four times as much. This is something Americans forget. Back before this Matzelinger, a black American, invented this process, shoes were so expensive that most Americans did not even own a pair of shoes, or, if they did, they owned one pair of shoes in their entire life.

We all know about George Washington Carver. He, of course, is well-known to school children throughout the United States for his great scientific integrity and the work he did, especially in the investigation of food processing and peanuts and the paint industry. We know he made enormous contributions. But there are many, many more black Americans besides George Washington Carver who deserve this credit.

For example, more closely to home, James West joined Bell Labs in the late 1950's and was responsible for over 100 patents on microphones and other electronic devices.

Dr. Patricia Bath in the 1990's, and here she is one of the big supporters, I might add now, and has been making the rounds in Congress supporting a strong patent system, she is an African-American female physician who earned a patent for a medical device she developed for a technique of removing cataracts from people's eyes.

So all of these inventors benefited from the wisdom of our Founding Fathers when they put in our government and in our Constitution laws protecting people's creativity and patent rights. But they also, these individuals, in return, using those rights that were guaranteed them, made enormous contributions to the well-being of the United States of America.

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A great statesman and, of course, President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, of course, was probably the most well-respected among the African-American community because he did do so much to free the slaves, brought that issue of the stain of our Nation to our people, and we find that after our Civil War were able to remove that stain.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest supporters of America's patent system. He himself had a patent for floating boats that had gone up on sandbars, and he said, and I quote, "The patent system added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius," and not only did he give land away to people who wanted to settle the West and free the slaves, but he was a strong believer in patent rights.

Now recently, we have seen 26 Noble Laureates join us who are trying to protect the patent rights from changes they are trying to make now join us, and what is interesting, one of the people who played such an important part in the organization of those Noble Laureates and played such an important part in strengthening and keeping strong America's patent system is a black professor named James Chandler, who is the president of the National Intellectual Property Law Institute right here in Washington, D.C., and he has been a champion of this issue because he realizes that it is technological progress that does permit the quality of life of all people to rise, and that black Americans who have been left out in so many cases of the economic well-being of our country, need America to continue to be the leading world economic and technological power. When Professor Chandler speaks, I can tell my colleagues he is one of the great spokesmen for American technology today.

So as we honor the African-American community in talking about African-American history and black history and honor people such as Lincoln, let us not forget the black inventors who I think have made such an enormous contribution to our well-being and never been given the proper credit that they are due because often we are focusing on other elements and maybe more political elements of what caused this to change or that to change, but in this case the genius of black America has done so much for the American people that it deserves recognition when we talk about black history.

So I am very, very proud to be a part of this honoring black history, and I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observations.

THREE IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss a few problems I think this country still faces. I want to mention three, but I will talk more about one in particular.

Overall, I believe this country faces a serious problem in that our government is too big. When government is big, it means that liberty is threatened. Today, our governments throughout the land consume more than half of what the American people produce. In order to do that, there has to be curtailment on individual liberty.

In the attempt to help people in a welfare-warfare state, unfortunately the poor never seem to be helped. A lot of money is spent, but due to the monetary system that we have, inevitably,

the middle class tends to get wiped out and the poor get poorer, and very often in the early stages the wealthy get wealthier. In the meantime, the corporations seem to do quite well. So we live in an age where we have a fair amount of corporatism associated with the welfare-warfare state in which we live.

The three specific problems that I want to mention, and I mention these because I think this is what the American people are concerned about, and sometimes we here inside the Beltway do not listen carefully to the people around the country. The three issues are these: The first are the scandals that we hear so much about, the second is an IMF bailout, and the third has to do with Iraq.

Now, the scandals have been around a bit. We have heard about Travelgate and Filegate, and we also heard about interference in foreign policy dealing with foreign donations. Now, those I consider very serious and for this reason I join the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) in his resolution to initiate an inquiry into the seriousness of these charges. Some of these charges have been laid aside mainly because there is another scandal in the news, something that has been much more attractive to the media, and that essentially is all that we have been hearing of in the last several weeks. I think this is a distraction from some of the issues that we should deal with. But that is not the one issue that I want to dwell on this evening.

The IMF is another issue that I think is very important. This funding will be coming up soon. The Congress will be asked to appropriate \$18 billion to bail out the Southeast Asian currencies and countries, and this is a cost; although we are told it does not cost anything, it does not add to the deficit, there is obviously a cost, and we cannot convince the American people that there is no cost just because of our method of budgeting and we do not add it into the deficit.

Once again, these funds, whether they go to Southeast Asia or whether they go to Mexico, they never seem to help the little people; they never help the poor people. The poor are poorer than ever in Mexico, and yet the politicians and the corporations and the bankers even in this country get the bailout. This \$18 billion is nothing more than another bailout.

Now, the third issue is Iraq, and I want to talk more about that, because I am fearful we are about ready to do something very foolish, very foolish for our country, and very dangerous.

Of these three issues, there is a common thread. When we think about the scandals, we talk about international finance, a large amount of dollars flowing into this country to influence our elections and possibly play a role in our foreign policy.

Also, the IMF, which has to do with international finance, the IMF is under the United Nations and therefore it